



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 11/10/2010

Tree Committee MEETING MINUTES 11/10/2010

Present: Sally Naish, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker,
Corinna Vanderspek, Greg Watt, Patricia Muldoon, Walter Phillips

Prepared by: Greg Watt

1. Missions and Goals

The following draft mission statement was produced. This draft will need further revisions after review by the entire committee. Please forward comments and edits to Sally. There was particular discussion about the following: 1) use of "site appropriate" in the first objective, 2) how much distinction needs to be made in the wording between Town trees and private trees, and 3) whether or not to include the tree inventory in the objectives.

Draft Mission Statement (11/10/10):

The Arlington Tree Committee serves to promote the protection, planting, and care of Town trees.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of site-appropriate public trees
- Promote community awareness of trees and their benefits
- Provide a website to share tree-related information on Town services and policies
- Provide training in tree selection, planting, and care
- Develop a list of recommended trees
- Raise funds to support the Tree Committee's mission
- Conduct an inventory of the number and health of street trees

Website

Sally will speak with Alan Jones to coordinate a meeting where Alan would take over as our lead consultant for the website.

The end of 2010 was set as the target date for completion of beta-version of the website. All committee members should review the current website outline and give feedback.

Planning for 2011 Tree-Planting Season

Discussed the idea of asking residents to commit to caring for and watering a tree planted by the Town in front of their residence. Discussed asking residents to sign a contract committing to this. The group discussed the possible funding of a water truck - perhaps in part from Trees Please account - to support the successful planting of new trees. Discussed how a non-Town employee could use the Town's watering truck or whether a private company could do the watering.

Sally/ Clarissa will explore the process by which money could be requested and a check be cut from the Trees Please account.

Patricia Muldoon will draft a process by which a resident would request a tree, commit to caring for the tree, and give feedback to the town.

Tree Steward Training Program:

Corinna and Sally attended the Massachusetts Tree Steward Training Program. They outlined information on the Tree inventory software and another program which helps assess the financial value of community trees. The program also addressed "working with your utility arborist." The presenter offered to be an informal consultant about strategies to work with the utility companies. People from neighboring communities also attended. Sally and Corinna will make the DVD copy of the presentation available to the Committee when they receive it.

Next meeting:

Wednesday December 8th at 6 PM. Selectman's Hearing Room. Note time change.

Follow-up Tasks:

1. Review the mission statement and forward comments and edits to Sally.
2. Sally will speak with Alan Jones to coordinate a meeting where Alan would take over as our lead consultant for the website.
3. All committee members should review the current website outline and give feedback.
4. Sally/ Clarissa will explore the process by which money could be requested and a check be cut from the Trees Please account.
5. Patricia will draft a process by which residents would request a tree, commit to caring for the tree, and give feedback to the town.